

Best Management Practice for Native Trees in Vineyards

Native Vegetation Information Sheet No.31

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BACKGROUND

The presence of a large gum tree in a vineyard is a recognised visual signature for the Australian wine industry. The aesthetic view of vines and imposing gums is used in marketing and advertising. To retain these iconic views, some thought needs to be given to how the vineyard is planted around these grand old trees.

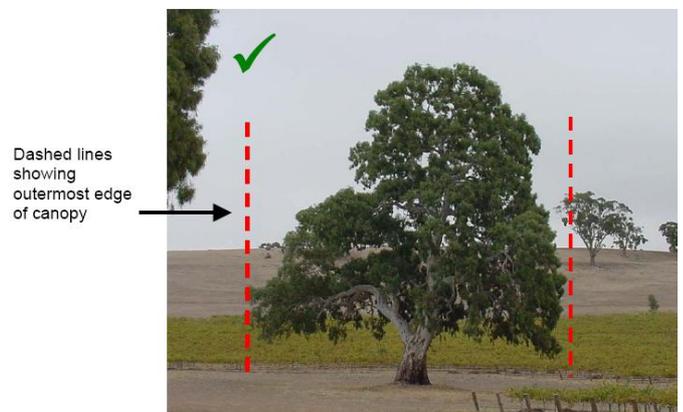
A GUIDE TO PLANTING VINES AROUND NATIVE TREES

The South Australian Native Vegetation Council (NVC) recommends the following policy and stipulation for planting around existing large trees:

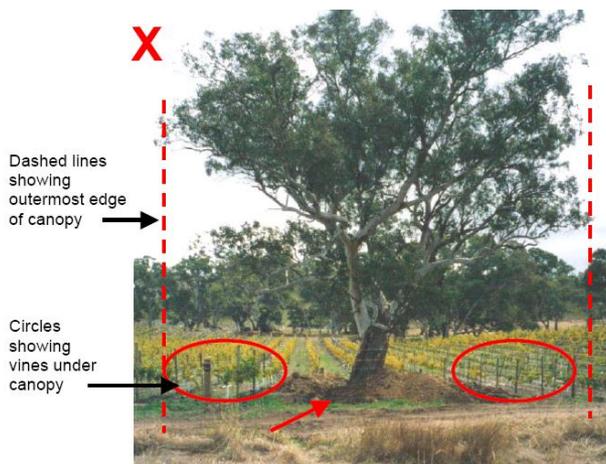
In the vicinity of those trees to remain, no planting or soil disturbance (including deep-ripping, trenching or ploughing) to occur below the canopy and within 3 metres beyond the outer-most edge of the tree canopy.

The aim of this recommendation is to protect the life of trees remaining in a planted area, by preventing damage to the root base and therefore possible death.

Vine growth under the canopies of trees is severely restricted due to competition for soil moisture and nutrients. Planting should be carried out beyond the outer-most canopy or the 'drip-line' by at least 3 metres. This will negate the need for deep ripping and trenching under the canopy and prevent significant damage to any tree within or alongside a vineyard.



The photo above indicates best management practice, showing how a Red Gum in a vineyard has vines planted 3m or more beyond the canopy dripline.



The photo above shows poor management practice, where the vines are planted too close to the tree and consequent trenching around the tree (indicated by red arrow) has occurred.



The tree shown in this photo is the same as in the photo to the left, one year later. Notice the lack of foliage as a consequence of trenching around it. This practice is deemed a breach of the Native Vegetation Act 1991 and legal action may be taken.

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Native Vegetation Council



Government of South Australia